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ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CURATOR

OF THE

MUSEUM

OF

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.

(SIXTH OF PRINTED SERIES.)

MIDDLETOWN, CONN.:

Pelton & King, Steam Printers and Bookbinders.

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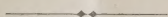
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OFFICERS OF THE MUSEUM,

For the Year 1881-82.



JOHN W. BEACH, D. D., LL. D., - *President of the University.*

WILLIAM NORTH RICE, PH. D., *Professor of Natural History,
and Curator of the Museum.*

JOSEPH C. BURKE, M. A., - - - - *Assistant.*

CLARA A. PEASE, - - - - *Acting Assistant.*

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Board of Trustees of Wesleyan University:

The Curator of the Museum respectfully submits the following, as the Report of the Museum for the year closing June 29th, 1882.

In the summer of 1881, Henry L. Osborn, B. A., who had been employed for three years as Assistant, resigned the position, having been appointed to a Fellowship in Johns Hopkins University. The loss of his services, which had increased in value with each year, was occasion of regret; but his appointment to a position in which he would have so favorable opportunities for prosecuting the studies in which he had given promise of high success, was matter for hearty congratulation. Joseph C. Burke, M. A., a former post-graduate student in Natural History, was appointed to the vacant position, and has rendered faithful and efficient service. Mr. Burke, like his predecessors in the office, has had entire charge of the details of cataloguing, labeling, and other routine work of the Museum, the nominal Curator having his time so closely occupied with the work of instruction as to be able to give only the most general supervision to the Museum. Miss Clara A. Pease, a special student in Natural History, has been employed as Acting Assistant, and has rendered valuable service.

Some progress has been made during the year in the arrangement of the Museum. The specimens of Insects, Crustacea, Worms, and Echinoderms have been systematically arranged; and general labels indicating the classes, sub-classes, orders, and sub-orders have been placed upon the shelves. Some of the other departments of the Museum have also been more thoroughly labeled.

Some accessions of extraordinary importance have been received during the year.

Mr. E. F. Sheldon, of Middletown, offered for sale his collection of minerals. The collection was exceedingly rich in the minerals of our own vicinity, much time and money having been expended in obtaining the choicest specimens. Every Museum ought to make a specialty of the Natural History of the region in which it is situated. In so remarkable a mineralogical district as that of the towns of Middletown, Haddam, Portland, and Chatham, a Museum ought especially to exhibit a representation of the local minerals, ample in number, and well chosen as regards the variety and excellence of the specimens. The labors of Dr. Johnston, and the purchase of the Franckfort Collection in the early years of the Museum, made a good beginning in this direction; and one of the leading aims of the present Curator has always been to make the Museum a center for the exhibition and study of the mineral treasures amid which it is situated. In pursuance of this design, the local part of Mr. Sheldon's collection was purchased at an expense of one hundred and fifty dollars. The money was contributed by Hon. Chester C. Corbin, of Webster, Mass. It has not yet been practicable to find time for the thorough study and arrangement of this collection. But it is obvious that, besides adding many choice specimens to the exhibition shelves, it will furnish much useful material for exchanges. The Museum is indeed fortunate in securing such an accession, and the liberality of the donor receives most grateful acknowledgment. Worthy of mention in this place is the fact that the Sheldon collection includes several specimens of the rare mineral, Samarskite, from Pelton's Quarry in Portland. This mineral, first discovered in the Urals, afterwards found to occur more abundantly in North Carolina, has never hitherto, to the writer's knowledge, been observed in this vicinity.

Other noteworthy accessions are due to the zeal and liberality of Hon. T. R. Pickering, a gentleman whose benefactions to the Museum in former years have been important. Mr. Pickering was Commissioner for the United States at the International Exhibition in

Melbourne, Australia. During the months which he spent in Australia, in fulfillment of that mission, he enjoyed exceptionally good opportunities for obtaining specimens of the animals of that region. Since his return he has presented to the Museum a collection of skins. The collection includes the large lizard, *Hadrosaurus*, and the following Marsupials and Monotremes:—

Macropus rufus,
Macropus giganteus,
Halmaturus ualabatus,
Hypsiprymnus rufescens,
Phascolarctus cinereus,
Phalangista vulpina,
Petaurus laguanoides,
Dasyurus maculatus,
Dasyurus viverrinus,
Ornithorhynchus anatinus,
Echidna hystrix.

The Museum possesses also specimens of the following species of Australian Marsupials not included in Mr. Pickering's collection:—

Hypsiprymnus gaimardii,
Phalangista xanthopus,
Petaurus breviceps,
Petaurus sciureus,
Perameles fasciata.

We have therefore at the present time a very instructive representation of that most remarkable Mammalian fauna. The skins received from Mr. Pickering have been mounted in excellent style by Mr. Ward, of Rochester, N. Y., and are now among the most attractive, as well as among the most valuable, objects in the Museum. As it is impracticable to arrange them in their proper place in the Museum, for want of space, they have been temporarily placed in the room used as a Museum Annex in the second story of Judd Hall.

Mr. Pickering carried with him from the Museum a collection of duplicate skins of American Birds and Mammals, for exchange. These he gave to Canterbury Museum, Christ Church, New Zealand;

and in exchange for them we have received a nearly complete skeleton of one of the Moas. So fine a specimen of that remarkable group of fossil birds is a most welcome accession to the Paleontological Department.

Valuable collections of Insects have been received from E. A. Gastman, of Decatur, Ill., and Prof. D. S. Sheldon, of Davenport, Iowa, in exchange for marine Invertebrates. Within the last two years a good beginning has been made on a collection of Insects, the dried Insects of the old collection having been mostly destroyed by their living kindred. The specimens of the new Entomological Collection have been placed in boxes well adapted to protect them from such ravages.

A detailed list of accessions is given as an Appendix to this Report.

In the last report, attention was called to the need of some provision, by special endowment or annual appropriation, for increased expenditure in the purchase of specimens. It was urged that in no other way than by liberal purchases can many of the most important desiderata be supplied, the hap-hazard accessions resulting from donations, from the labors of officers in collecting, and from occasional exchanges, being necessarily unable to produce a symmetrical growth. While desiring again to ask the earnest consideration of the Trustees for the suggestions offered in the former Report, the Curator would especially urge the need of increased expenditure for work in the Museum. Accessions have been so numerous since the last general re-arrangement of the Museum, that a new re-arrangement is now imperatively demanded. While some progress has been made during the past year in the detailed arrangement of particular departments, and in labeling, there is no department of the Museum in which the work of arrangement and labeling has been carried out in complete accordance with the views of the Curator, and in some departments the specimens are in a condition of confusion which renders them almost uninformative. Too much stress cannot be laid upon the necessity of thorough arrangement and labeling in order that a Museum may accomplish its proper educational work. It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that the ideal Museum is a systematic

series of labels illustrated by specimens. Much more might be accomplished for the increase of the Museum by a system of exchanges, if the force employed were sufficient for the work of assorting duplicates and conducting the necessary correspondence and negotiation.

The utter inadequacy of the present force will be apparent when it is considered that the Curator of the Museum has had, during the past year, the entire work of instruction in the Department of Natural History in the University. The increase in the resources of the Institution has permitted an increase in the number of instructors, so that the work of most of the members of the Faculty has been considerably diminished. In the department of Natural History, however, the work of instruction has been so much increased by the addition of elective courses, that the number of recitations, lectures, and other exercises allotted to the Professor of Natural History the past year has been actually greater than that allotted to the Professor of the whole of Natural Science fifteen years ago. It is obvious that the Curator can give but little personal attention to the Museum. The Assistants have been employed at small compensation, the Assistantship being a desirable position for a post-graduate student on account of the opportunities of study afforded. On account of the smallness of the salary, only a part of an Assistant's time can be claimed for Museum work, the opportunity of using the remainder of the time in the prosecution of his studies being an important part of the compensation of the position. Moreover, the term of service of the Assistants is necessarily short, the salary being insufficient to secure a permanent engagement. The practical result is that an Assistant may be expected to leave about as soon as he has become thoroughly familiar with the routine of Museum administration. Moreover, officers whose term of service is so brief, are not in a condition to take the initiative in plans for the improvement of the Museum. While it is a pleasure to bear testimony to the diligence and faithfulness of the Assistants who have been employed in the Museum, in the past year as in former years, it is in the nature of the case impossible for so small a force to accomplish the work needed for a thoroughly satisfactory administration.

The generous donations of many friends, and the earnest labors of Prof. Johnston, Mr. Goode, and others who have served as officers in the department, have given to the University a really excellent educational Museum. But, while much has been accomplished, vastly greater results of usefulness to science and to education may be achieved, if the working force of the Museum can be increased.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF ACCESSIONS.

- Arms, Rev. G. F.—Fossils and Red Hematite, from St. Albans, Vt., and vicinity.
- Bacon, Curtis.—Silver dollar of 1799.
- Berry, Chas. W.—Fibrous Gypsum, from Port Byron, N. Y.; and Rhomb Spar, from Carthage, Spain.
- Burke, J. C.—Minerals, Botanical and Zoological specimens, from various localities; Chinese newspaper printed in San Francisco, Cal.; one Mexican, and one U. S. coin.
- Burke, J. C., and Rice, W. N.—Miscellaneous Zoological specimens, from Lamentation Mt., Conn.
- Canterbury Museum, Christ Church, New Zealand.—Skeleton of Moa, *Mionornis*. (Exchange.)
- Chemical Department.—Notochord and investing cartilage of sturgeon.
- Coe, J. W.—Twenty species of Carboniferous Fossils, from Danville, Ill. (Exchange.)
- Coleman, Rev. N.—Collection of twenty-five Coleoptera, from Berlin, Conn.; collection of ninety-two species of Insects, twenty-six of which are from Hungary, and the remainder, mostly Lepidoptera, from Berlin, Conn.
- Corbin, C. C.—See Sheldon, E. F.

- Craig, James.—Specimens of Myriopod, *Scutigera*, from Middletown, Conn.
- Crittenden, A. R.—Shells and Minerals, from Penobscot Bay, Me.
- De Castro, J. F.—Leaf of "Silver-tree," from South Sea Islands.
- Gardiner, Mrs. Dr. F.—Branches, with leaves and flowers, of *Eucalyptus*, from Southern California.
- Gastman, E. A.—One hundred species of Insects, from Decatur, Ill., and vicinity. (Exchange.)
- Goodale, J. H.—Chiastolite, from Sterling, Mass.; Minerals, from New Hampshire and Canada.
- Gridley, Miss Ida R.—Two specimens of Ferns, from Canton Center, Conn.
- Hubbard, E. N.—Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*, from Rock Fall, Conn.
- Johnson, L. N.—Fossils, Shells, and Ethnological specimens, from various localities; Minerals, from Branchville, Conn.; Bow, from Brazil.
- Loomis, Rev. C. L.—Minerals, from Blue Mountain and vicinity, N. Y., Brownhelm, Ohio, and Middlefield, Higganum, and Rock Fall, Conn.; specimens of *Chelopus insculptus*, from Middletown, Conn.
- Mead, W. E.—Ichneumon, from Middletown, Conn.
- Merrill, G. P.—Mineral, from Auburn, Me.
- Osborn, Miss C. E.—Birds' nests and eggs, pinned Insects, and Zoological specimens in alcohol, from Madison, N. J.
- Osborn, H. L.—Fossils, from Crab Island, Lake Champlain; pressed plants, from Sweden, and from various localities in the United States.
- Parmelee, Geo. S.—Specimens of Imperial Moth, *Eacles imperialis*, from Middletown, Conn.
- Pearsall, W. S.—Entomostraca in well-water, from Middletown, Conn.
- Pease, Miss Clara A.—Turtle, *Chrysemys picta*, Insects, and Earthworms, from Middletown, Conn.

- Pickering, T. R.—Collection of skins of Marsupials and Monotremes, and Lizard, *Hadrosaurus*, from Australia,—mostly from Victoria.
- Raymond, H.—Specimen of common Mole, *Scalops aquaticus*, from Middletown, Conn.
- Rice, E. L.—Corals, from Micronesia; Insects, from Middletown, Conn.
- Rice, W. N.—Fourteen specimens of Belemnites and other Fossils, from Speeton, England. See also Burke, J. C.
- Roe, Alfred S.—Fucoids in Medina Sandstone, from Fulton, N. Y.
- Shaw, Frederick M.—Two specimens of Fire-clay, from Fall River, Mass.
- Sheldon, Prof. D. S.—Forty-one species of Insects, from Davenport, Iowa. (Exchange.)
- Sheldon, E. F.—Collection of Minerals, from vicinity of Middletown, Conn. (Purchased for one hundred and fifty dollars, the money being contributed by Hon. C. C. Corbin.)
- Treadway, Edward.—Wood excavated by Carpenter Bee, *Xylocopa virginica*, Middletown, Conn.
- Waldo, C. A.—Collection of Minerals, mostly from Northern New York.
- Wallace, John.—Four Monkeys.
- Woods, C. D.—Water-flea, from Middletown, Conn.; Sponge and Crabs, scraped from oysters.

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